

Board of Health Meeting – July 2019

Substance Abuse and Prevention Division, Lowell Health Department

Substance Abuse Coordinator, Division Manager
Lainnie Emond, LMHC

Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) Grant Initiatives:

- Continuing to work with the Co-Chairs of the Mayor's Opioid Epidemic Crisis Task Force to plan monthly meeting agendas, identify potential initiatives, contact presenters, and invite new agencies to participate.
 - *Next Meetings: August 26th from 5:30-6:30pm at City Hall (No July Meeting)*
- Continuing to lead Data Subcommittee of the Mayor's Opioid Task Force. Subcommittee members released a report highlight historic increase in opioid-related overdoses in Lowell during the summer months. Future topics that the Subcommittee will look into include specific risk factors of opioid overdose associated with winter weather, effects of being administered Narcan and not seeking immediate medical attention, and an update on HIV and opioid use in Lowell.

Smart Policing Initiative Grant and Lowell CO-OP

- Lainnie and Maricia continue to plan and lead monthly CO-OP Supervisors Meeting comprised of CO-OP supervisors, grant management staff, and UML research partners.
- Lainnie and Maricia are in the interview process for the vacant Clinical Recovery Specialist position for the Lowell CO-OP (Health Department position).
- Ongoing meeting with Maricia, LPD grant staff, UML research partners, and CO-OP members are being held to brainstorm ways to enhance the CO-OP model and plan for upcoming grant funding.
- Lainnie continues to be engaged in updating the various CO-OP data collection processes, as well as has been working on administrative documents that highlight CO-OP's work in addition to post-opioid overdose follow-up.
- 6/20 Lainnie and Maricia participated in a Homeless Outreach meeting facilitated by CTI to continue to discuss coordination of care and brainstorm ways to improve the homeless population's access to housing services.

Additional Substance Abuse Coordinator Activities:

- Attended 2019 Harold Roger's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) National Meeting in Washington DC (6/26 and 6/27). Lainnie's position is funded by a PDMP grant that the Lowell Police Department received in 2016.
- Lainnie is continuing to work with community partners from Tufts, UML, and Trinity EMS on a journal article re: syringe discard in Lowell based off of the work completed during the yearlong, grant-funded SSP and PEERRS program through Life Connection Center. Abstract was submitted to the 2019 APHA Annual Meeting and Expo on 11/4 and was accepted as a presentation topic.
- Actively working with Division staff to write and edit content for the new DrugFreeGreaterLowell.org website. Website launch date is TDB.

Massachusetts Opioid Abuse Prevention Collaborative (MOAPC)
Michael Hall, M.Ed., MOAPC Coordinator
(June 8- July 8, 2019)

Strategy One (implement Life Skills Training across the cluster): *Life Skills Training is an evidenced based prevention curriculum supported by the Bureau of Substance Addiction Services.*

- Ongoing consultation with teachers and administrators within the Greater Lowell MOAPC Cluster on fidelity and implementation of Life Skills Training.
- Gathering end of year data from participating schools and organizations. Data will be utilized for planning implementation and support needs for 2019-20 school year

Grant Strategy Two (coordination and promotion of education on harm reduction strategies):

- Coordinating support with community providers to promote and provide overdose prevention and awareness training and resources to high risk populations. This includes Narcan and opioid overdose awareness training, and post overdose follow up visits in several communities
- In the process of assessing existing supports of this strategy outside of MOAPC involvement. This is part of our overall sustainability assessment.

Additional activities include:

- Active participation in Billerica Substance Abuse Prevention committee.
- Facilitated planning meetings for the second Merrimack Valley Substance Use Disorder Symposium scheduled for December 6th, 2019. The planning committee is chaired by MOAPC coordinator.
- Tri-Chair of Greater Lowell Health Alliance Substance Use Prevention task force.
- In cooperation with MOAPC coalition partners, began collecting data linking suicide and substance use disorder. Focus groups with clients in local treatment groups are in development.
- Coordinated
- Facilitated connections and meeting between MAT community partners in Lowell and Massachusetts Region 3 Health and Medical Coordinating Coalition regarding the development of meeting the needs of patients in treatment for substance use disorder in community disaster emergency planning. (presented to the coalition June 25, 2019)
- Facilitated an Unwanted Medication and Sharps Disposal Day event for the public. (June 11)
- On the last day of school for Lowell Public Schools, facilitated a closed collection of unwanted medication and sharps for the Lowell Public School nurses, allowing for proper disposal of medications from school property. (June 15)

Event Date	Unwanted Medications Collected (lbs)	Unwanted Sharps Collected (lbs)	Number of Attendees
3/13/2019	255	317	162
6/11/2019	54	196	76
6/15/2019	18	25	Closed Collection for School Nurses

Partnerships for Success (PFS)
Lauren Keisling - Outreach Health Educator

Strategy One (social media and education dissemination to high school-aged youth re: sharing prescription medications):

CTI YouthBuild Workshops:

- Educational workshops with CTI YouthBuild ended 5/28. This workshop series is planned to be repeated when the next youth cohort begins in January 2020.

UMASS Lowell (UML) Collaboration:

- PFS Coordinator met with Tracy Moore, Director of Health Education and Promotion, and Annie Ciaraldi, Associate Dean of Compliance and Violence Prevention from UMASS Lowell to discuss offering mandatory prescription medication misuse prevention education to the incoming freshmen population. It was agreed that this education will occur during freshmen Welcome Week in August 2019, and that it will reach all 1,200 freshmen students.
- PFS Coordinator met with Marshall Greenleaf, Associate Director of Residence Life, to discuss conducting prescription medication misuse prevention education for Resident Advisors (RAs). The training is planned for the end of August 2019 during RA yearly training and will reach 150 RAs.

SAPC/PFS Partnership:

- PFS Coordinator is collaborating with Maria Ruggerio, Substance Abuse Prevention Collaborative (SAPC) Program Director, through the Tewksbury Police Department to create and launch an “Anti-Mixing” campaign targeted at youth ages 14-18 to raise awareness on the dangers of mixing substances across the Merrimack Valley area.

Strategy Two (social media and education dissemination to parents/guardians and high school-aged youth re: proper disposal and storage):

“Help Keep Our Kids Safe” Campaign

- The LHD ran its “Help Keep Our Kids Safe” campaign for the second quarterly Unwanted Medication and Sharps Disposal Day of the year.

Community Outreach:

- PFS Coordinator attended Lowell Community Health Center TeenBLOCK program’s yearly event “Peace in the Park” on 5/22 to promote the 6/11 Unwanted Medication and Sharps Disposal Day and the LHD’s Syringe Collection Program.

Monthly Meeting:

- Next PFS Meeting is scheduled for 6/26 from 1:00PM-2:00PM at the Lowell Health Department.

Lowell Community Opioid Outreach Program (CO-OP)
Maricia Verma, Lowell CO-OP Supervisor

Relationship Building / Interactions with Local Providers and Collaterals:

- 6/14 Transitions TSS, Tewksbury: The CO-OP presented, explaining CO-OP services.
- 6/18 Brittany Hill, youth outreach worker from Community Teamwork Inc., met with the CO-OP regarding collaboration for youth 18-24.

Meetings:

- 6/5, 6/18 CO-OP Team Meetings
- 6/25 CO-OP Supervisors Meeting

Additional:

- 5/24 Ahmed Fathi, MPH UMass Lowell began as the CO-OP summer intern. He has started doing data entry, export, and analysis.
- 6/14 The CO-OP Supervisor and CO-OP escorted the City's homeless consultant to two homeless encampments at the request of the City Manager's Homeless Task Force.
- 6/20 Homeless Outreach Meeting, at Community Team Work Inc. The Substance Abuse Coordinator and CO-OP Supervisor met with members of City Manager's Homeless Task Force, and outreach supervisors and workers to discuss coordination and improvements in efforts pertaining to the homeless population in Lowell, and help to coordinate the 6/26 Point In Time (PIT) Homeless Count.
- 6/26 PIT Homeless Count. The CO-OP Supervisor and CO-OP participated in the homeless count along with members of the City Manager's Homeless Task Force.
- Ongoing: The Substance Abuse Coordinator, the CO-OP Supervisor, and the CO-OP have been conducting second round interviews for the vacant Clinical Recovery Specialist position.

Note: The variation in CO-OP Client Engagement data is suspected to be due to seasonal fluctuations associated with the substance use population, such as weather and desire for clients to access treatment as a source of shelter. A secondary cause is suspected to be attributed to the continuing refinement of the CO-OP documentation process.

Client Engagement

Client Engagement Description	Jan. 2019	Feb. 2019	Mar. 2019	Apr. 2019	May 2019	6/1 -6/13 2019
Total Client Encounters	78	76	32	47	88	17
Clinical Recovery Specialist Active Clients	7	7	5	4	3	3
Families/clients who inquired information about Section 35 and petitions for Section 35	6	1	0	1	5	0
Clients CO-OP helped admit to some form of treatment	11	15	14	12	14	7
CO-OP helped clients with other services	2	2	2	8	4	1

Syringe Collection Program
Andres Gonzalez, Syringe Collection Program Coordinator (SCPC)

Outreach and Building Community Partnerships:

- Educational Presentations
 - UMass Lowell: Presented to staff for river clean-up day
 - Spindle City Youth Workers: Presented to students and staff on Sharps Safety & Sharps Protocol
- Community Agency Partnerships

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Department of Planning & Development ○ African Festival Committee ○ Lowell National Historical Park ○ Lowell Neighborhood Associations: Collation for a Better Acre ○ Lowell Street Department ○ Community Teamwork Inc. ○ Eliot Church 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CCF Ministries ○ City of Lowell Parking Enforcement ○ City of Lowell: Water Department ○ Lowell Canal Cleaners ○ Merrimack River Watershed Council ○ Lowell Police Department ○ Lowell Parks Department ○ Salvation Army: Lowell ○ Lowell Housing Authority
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Community Events Attended:

- 6/9 Merrimack River Clean-up day: Sharps Education & Clean-up
- 6/15 Canal Clean-up: Clean-up
- 6/22 Eliot Church Block Party Clean-up: Sharps Education & Clean-up

Areas Proactively Swept for Discarded Syringes:

- | | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roberto Clemente field • North Common Park • South Common Park • River Front Park • Merrimack River Bike Path • Lowell Spots Complex • Sheehy Park & River Walk • La Lachuer Park • Rogers Street Bridge | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jack Kerouac Park • Point Park • Hunts Falls Bridge • Bailey School • Archie Manor (Concord River) • Aiken Street Bridge • Lincoln Street Bridge • Dutton Street |
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Syringe Collection Activity

Total Number Of...	Mar. 2019	Apr. 2019	May 2019	June 1 st - June 26 th
Discarded syringe pick-up requests	1	8	6	8
Incoming calls for syringe pick-up requests	0	6	21	17
Syringes picked-up while responding to all discarded syringe pick-up requests	0	49	240	150
Hours proactively picking-up discarded syringes in the community	0	9	20	22
Syringes proactively picked-up while in the community	0	304	967	480
Syringes picked up during Community Clean-up Events	0	0	11	75